



UNITED WAY OF THE MID-SOUTH

# DRIVING THE DREAM

POVERTY to PROSPERITY NEWS

May 2020



## Driving The Dream Network Expands

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the DTD network has grown to include three new partner agencies. These partners have expanded the reach of the Economic Supports 2Gen focus area.

- Center for Employment Opportunities - We provide immediate, effective, and comprehensive employment services exclusively to individuals who have recently returned home from incarceration.
- Economic Opportunities - EcOp leverages a unique Shepherd Model to deliver exceptional workers to courageous employers.
- Progeny Place - It is our primary focus to foster an ecosystem which creates a thriving Mid-South community of entrepreneurs and highly-skilled residents.

Each organization will be visible and ready to receive referrals once they have completed DTD systems training. For now, visit them online or email [Terrell.Clayton@uwmidssouth.org](mailto:Terrell.Clayton@uwmidssouth.org) to learn more about these amazing organizations.

## A United Way's Relief Call Center powered by Driving The Dream

- 85 individuals and families served since April 13
- 52% of requests received have been referred through DTD's shared database system
- Top requests from families include:
  - Income
  - Food & Nutrition
  - Shelter/Housing

## A Back-to-Business Framework presented by the Joint COVID-19 Task Force

The City of Memphis COVID-19 Updates can be found by visiting [covid19.memphistn.gov](http://covid19.memphistn.gov). The site includes the Back-to-Business Framework, a list of testing sites, virus impact numbers in Shelby County, and other local resources.

## May is National Mental Health Month

Mental Health Month raises awareness of trauma and the impact it can have on the physical, emotional, and mental well-being of children, families, and communities. Mental health is essential for a person's overall health. Prevention works, treatment is effective, and people can recover from mental disorders and live full and productive lives. [Read more](#)

## Shelby County COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund

On April 15, 2020, the Division of Community Services was designated \$500,000 to establish the COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund Program to provide social services for residents who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. View eligibility requirements and apply [here](#).

## Upcoming Training Opportunities

**Dress for Success Memphis** - Join the women and volunteers of Dress for Success for an hour of networking and learning at these upcoming Virtual Workshops.

- Navigating the New World of Work with a Growth Mindset - [Register](#)
- An Hour of Mindfulness and Meditation - [Register](#)
- Lead Like a CEO - [Register](#)
- Connecting with Your Emotions to Care for Yourself and Others - [Register](#)
- Technology and the World of Work - [Register](#)

**Driving The Dream Systems Training: CaseWorthy** - CaseWorthy went live on April 30th. Training sessions are held each Tuesday and Thursday at 10:30am & 1:00pm. [Register](#)

For assistance with the CaseWorthy system, including training and login issues, please contact [Candace.Sanders@uwmidssouth.org](mailto:Candace.Sanders@uwmidssouth.org). For all other questions or concerns related to DTD technical systems, please contact [Eric.Burden@uwmidssouth.org](mailto:Eric.Burden@uwmidssouth.org).

**Momentum Nonprofit Partners to host virtual training opportunities** - [Click here](#) to register for an upcoming session.

## Partner Agency Updates

- **Center for Employment Opportunities** - Staff working remotely; offices closed to public
- **Economic Opportunities (EcOp)** - Our Shepherds are connected to essential businesses, so we have been working with 'COVID-19' safety guidelines in place. Our current employer partners are Barnhart, Bryce, Johnson & Bryce, Standard Construction, Southern Systems international, and Wepfer Marine who employ 20 of our Economic Opportunities participant-workers along with 4 of our Shepherds.
- **Progeny Place** - Staff working remotely, however, we are open for business. Below are the services we are providing while working remotely:
  - Online job search capabilities via MidSouthWorks. We are currently enhancing capabilities, allowing employers to chat live with jobseekers.
  - Wrap-around support referral services to address barriers faced by jobseekers such as housing, transportation, food insecurity, etc.
  - Virtual Job Fair to take place in the month of May.
  - Online entrepreneurship classes for women and minorities.
  - Virtual Career Counselling via zoom or over the phone.
  - Direct support to local employers needing to fill open positions.
- **Shelby County Community Services Agency** - The Community Services Agency continues to provide qualified Shelby County residents with financial assistance for your utility bills, rent/mortgage, and medical prescription payments for uninsured and underinsured citizens. Residents can receive up to \$650 toward their utility bill and \$1000 toward their rent or mortgage. [Learn more](#)
- **Shelby County Trustee** - We implemented some changes which will remain in place through at least Friday, May 15th, subject to extension, including limited public access to our offices on the upper floors at 157 Poplar. We encourage you to do business with us through our smartphone app at PayIt901, through the mail, or online [www.shelbycountystatetrustee.com](http://www.shelbycountystatetrustee.com), and our staff is available by phone at 222-0200. Please mail a payment to the date of the postmark and if you request a receipt, one will be sent to you. You can also print tax receipts from our website. If you have been financially impacted by this crisis and are unable to pay your property taxes, please contact our office at 222-0200 about a payment plan. Our team will try to help. For more information and to read Trustee Newman's full update, click [here](#).

## DTD Updates

If your agency has an update to share, please email [Chelsea.Brock@uwmidssouth.org](mailto:Chelsea.Brock@uwmidssouth.org) or [Karlescia.Brookins@uwmidssouth.org](mailto:Karlescia.Brookins@uwmidssouth.org) so we can maintain accurate information. Additionally, you can contact your associate to provide, or receive, updated information.

## DTD Technical Assistance

[Eric Burden](#), Associate Director, Data & Quality Improvement

[Candace Sanders](#), Data & Quality Improvement Analyst

[Chelsea Brock](#), Data & Quality Improvement Associate

Visit Driving The Dream



[UWMIDSOUTH.ORG](http://UWMIDSOUTH.ORG) | 1005 Tillman St., Memphis, TN 38112

Manage your preferences | [Opt out](#) using TrueRemove®

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

1005 Tillman St  
Memphis, TN | 38112 US

This email was sent to .  
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.



[Subscribe](#) to our email list.